

Testing Subcommittee Meeting
September 13, 2006
DHSS Environmental Laboratory
Ewing, NJ

DWQI Testing Subcommittee Members Present: Steve Jenniss, Barker Hamill, Jean Matteo, Ann Marie Fournier

Support Members Present: Bernie Wilk: Office of Quality Assurance, and Julian Trexler: DHSS, Linda Bonnette: DEP-Water Supply

Opening Remarks

Steve opened meeting and asked members to review the minutes from the prior meeting on May 2, 2006. Three minor revisions were suggested. The members voted and approved the minutes with the proposed revisions. BSDW agreed to make the revisions to the minutes.

Agenda Items:

Formaldehyde

Barker had confirmed that the ICR database must be purchased. Bureau of Safe Drinking Water will order it. From the ICR database we will determine:

- The method(s) used. Was 556.1 the method used for formaldehyde?
- Which lab(s) ran the analysis for formaldehyde?

Other items to investigate:

Determine who in the EPA was the approval person for the labs performing the ICR analyses.

Determine method performance by examining the QA/QC information.

n-Hexane

Bernie said that n-hexane can be determined either by EPA method 502.2 or 524.2. However, Method 524.2 is preferable since there is better sensitivity achieved over 502.2 for n-hexane.

DHSS ran n-hexane using 524.2 and is achieving an MDL of 0.3 ppb. The health based number for n-hexane is 33 ppb. The question was brought up as to whether n-hexane, as a regulated VOC, would have to adhere to the requirement of a 0.5 µ/L or less method detection limit (MDL) as required by the NJ Safe Drinking Water Regulations. Since n-hexane is a solvent used in laboratories it may not be practical have that MDL requirement. Barker would like us to call up labs that run n-hexane as a 524.2 target compound and ask for their n-hexane method detection limit. If necessary, Barker said that through regulation, n-hexane can be exempted from that requirement.

Bernie reported that there are 19 certified drinking water labs that run 502.2 exclusively. There are 72 drinking water labs that run 524.2 exclusively. Bernie will provide the names of those labs. Steve would like to know if any of those labs running only 502.2 are any of the high volume labs. EPA 524.2 is the more expensive method of the two.

Ann Marie Fournier asked if by regulating n-hexane and therefore making 524.2 the only allowable method for VOCs, would 524.2 be mandated for the Private Well Testing Act VOCs also? She stated that PWTA

testing is already expensive. Barker answered that it may be possible to require n-hexane of the community water systems first and after looking at their results, decide whether or not to apply to the PWTA.

PCBs

As opposed to the 100 PCB samples to be taken as mentioned in the last meeting's minutes, Barker corrected the number to be around 10 samples. This is mainly due to the price of the EPA 1668 method(s). The locations would be the Rahway, lower Passaic Valley and New Jersey American –Delran taken at high and low flow. Additional sites would be derived from the SRP list. These would be approximately 5 locations close to where the highest SRP hits were. Barker wanted to get together with Lee to discuss these other locations, the method, labs and cost. He wanted to meet with BSDW staff to discuss the project so that the Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) can be written and the sampling started as soon as possible.

Chlordane:

The health based number for chlordane is 0.13 ppb. The current MCL is 0.5 ppb. Diane was able to obtain chlordane data through SRP. When looking at the data, EPA Method 608 was the method used most often with the median MDL value for that method being 0.4 ppb. The decision was made to leave the chlordane MCL as is and refer it to the treatment subcommittee.

Carbon Tetrachloride

Carbon Tetrachloride has a health based number of 0.39 ppb and the MCL is currently 2 ppb. Barker said that there is not enough data to justify lowering the MCL. Barker wanted BSDW staff to determine the systems in our analytical database which had carbon tetrachloride hits between 1 and 2 ppb.

Referrals from the Health Effects Subcommittee

There are nine compounds which were referred to the Testing subcommittee from the health effects subcommittee with their proposed HBL changes. There are 2 lists:

The first list consists of Benzene, Vinyl Chloride, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane and 1,1,2-Trichloroethane. The Testing Subcommittee originally thought that MDLs for these compounds would be obtained through the NJQL database. However, the NJQL rule will not be promulgated as soon as originally thought and therefore the NJQL data will not be available for our purposes. Therefore, Barker would like BSDW staff to phone the larger NJ certified drinking water labs to get their MDLS for the above four compounds.

The other five compounds, 1,3-Dichlorobenzene, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,4-Dichlorobenzene, 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene and 1,1-Dichloroethylene all have POLs lower than the proposed health based level. These compounds can be referred to the treatment subcommittee. Barker would like to know if there are any systems that may be affected by lowering the MCL.

Next meeting: November 28, 2006

Action Items:

Purchase ICR CD-ROM

Determine EPA oversight ICR person

Get QA/QC information on the ICR formaldehyde analyses

Determine which labs do 502.2 exclusively and those that do 524.2 exclusively

Call some NJ Certified labs that run 524.2 and ask if they calibrate for n-hexane and what their MDL is

Meet with Barker on sampling for PCBs

Write QAPP for PCB sampling

Determine the systems that have carbon tetrachloride hits between 1 and 2 ppb.

Call NJ certified labs and get their most recent MDLs for benzene, vinyl chloride, 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane, and 1,1,2-trichloroethane.

Look in SDWIS for any water systems that will be affected by lowering the MCL for 1,3-Dichlorobenzene, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,4-Dichlorobenzene, 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene and 1,1-Dichloroethylene.-

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

Linda Bonnette

BSDW

(10/23/06) rev. 11/28/06 DP